ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Data compressed according to a lossy DCT-based algorithm, such as the MPEG or MPEG2 algorithms, is decompressed according to a dynamically-selected set of DCT coefficients, with unused coefficients masked out. A macroblock of the data exhibiting little motion is decompressed with a small subset of DCT coefficients, while a macroblock exhibiting more motion is decompressed using a larger subset of DCT coefficients up the full set of DCT coefficients. Average computational complexity is thus kept low, enabling the use of inexpensive equipment, while degradation is minimized.

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